

Mayor's Column for the September 11, 2013 Edition of the Evansville Review

### **Exceptional Evansville Volunteerism**

On many occasions I have written or spoken of the deep well of Evansville volunteerism. Just this past Sunday I joined other St. John's members to paint rooms at the Evansville Youth Center, one of a number of local projects benefitting from four million Lutherans engaged in a national service Sunday across the U.S.

Public service is extensively rooted in my family and I take great pride in the personal commitments of hundreds of volunteers in my hometown. The character and strength of our community is underpinned by the culmination of volunteer efforts and activities.

Last Friday I drafted the following mayoral proclamation, which was presented at this week's Common Council meeting.

### **CITY OF EVANSVILLE, WISCONSIN 2013 MAYORAL PROCLAMATION**

#### *In Recognition of Exceptional Evansville Volunteerism*

**WHEREAS**, by joint resolution passed by the United States Congress on December 18, 2001, September 11 of each year is designated Patriot Day in tribute to lives lost, survivors, and volunteers of the 9/11 tragedy, as well as recommitment to our nation's principles and ideals; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2009, the U. S. Congress approved the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, recognizing September 11 as an annual National Day of Service and Remembrance, and encouraging participation in community service activities and volunteer service recognitions and observances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evansville community has a long, rich history of active citizen volunteerism and community service engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, development of the Evansville Golf Course, formation of Evansville Manor, construction of Creekside Place, establishment of the Evansville Ecumenical Care Closet, and creation of Building A Safer Evansville are remarkable examples through the years of citizens coming together to take action on identified community needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Evansville is the beneficiary of efforts of service organizations like the Evansville Lions Club, Evansville Boy Scouts, and Save Our Lake Environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Evansville Community Partnership hosts the September 11 biennial "Just Desserts" volunteer recognition to thank citizens and organizations for their enduring commitments to ensure a better future for our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the compassion and willingness of Evansville citizens to lend a helping hand and strengthen the fabric of our community unifies and enriches all of us.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on the eve of September 11, I, Sandra J. Decker, Mayor of the City of Evansville, Wisconsin, on behalf of the Evansville Common Council and our community, do hereby convey heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the outstanding efforts of our volunteers. In recognition of Patriot Day and the National Day of Service and Remembrance, I encourage the citizens of Evansville to pause in reflection of the noble principles and ideals to which our country aspires, to engage in acts of volunteerism, and to celebrate the wealth of volunteer activity for the betterment of Evansville.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

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Sandra J. Decker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Judy L. Walton, City Clerk

The value of community service in Evansville cannot be overstated. As today, September 11, is designated for renewal of our spirit of compassion and sense of shared humanity, please take a moment to thank our local volunteers and also consider new avenues for building community.

### **Community Announcements**

Curbside yard waste pick-up is occurring this week, September 9-13. October curbside pick-up of yard debris will occur from October 7 to 11 and will be the final pick-up until next spring.

Wonderful produce is available at the Evansville Farmers Market on Saturdays through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. adjacent to Creekside Place, 102 Maple Street. I've enjoyed tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, ground cherries, and squash recently, as well as purchased beautiful mums, tasty bakery, and fair trade coffee.

The "Just Desserts" biennial volunteer recognition is being held tonight, September 11, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Creekside Place.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike the Barns, scheduled for Sunday, September 15, will start and end at Lake Leota. 550 cyclists will visit various CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms in our area.

The Evansville Chamber will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual golf outing at the Evansville Golf & Country Club on Thursday, September 19. More information is available at [www.evansvillechamber.org](http://www.evansvillechamber.org).

On September 20, the inaugural Shop, Stroll & Savor Ladies Night Out will be held from 5-8 p.m. in the downtown. It will be a special night of pampering, shopping, and partying. Additional information can be found at [www.evansvillechamber.org](http://www.evansvillechamber.org).

The 14 South Artists Fall Studio Tour will be held on September 21 & 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tour maps and more information are available at [www.14southartists.com](http://www.14southartists.com).

The Creekside Place Health Fair will be held on Wednesday, September 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### **Community Thanks**

Evansville churches champion local volunteer efforts. Continuous work at the Care Closet epitomizes service to our friends and neighbors needing a helping hand. Dozens of St. John's Lutheran Church members, adults and youth, weeded playgrounds at our parks, painted at the Youth Center, cleared brush from a city retaining wall, and helped residents with specific needs last Sunday. Thank you for making Evansville a better place!

Evansville appreciates the outstanding volunteer activities of the nineteen recipients of "Just Desserts" awards. We thank Baker Manufacturing Company, Judy Bratzke, Rod Courtier, Sue Farnsworth, Jon Frey, Francette Hamilton, Jenean Hamilton, David Jeans, Pam Keisler, Ann Larson, Marie Messinger, Sandy Spanton Nelson, Lynn Olson, Randy Peters, Pieces, Clutter and Quilts, David Rossmiller, Carole Sturz, Jackie Trawicki, and Jay Wood.